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AAFC and SAFEA Continue their Fruitful Collaboration

Minister Ji, Director General of The Chinese State Administration for Foreign Expert Affairs (SAFEA) was in Ottawa on April 20, 2009, to sign an MOU with Dr. Marc Fortin, ADM Research, AAFC. SAFEa is one of the four central government main collaborators of AAFC in S&T. SAFEa is responsible for the administration of experts invited by China from abroad, and of sending Chinese technical and managerial professionals from government departments, universities and enterprises for overseas exchanges. Under the MOU, SAFEa will continue to invite AAFC experts in China while AAFC will continue to host Chinese scientists whose living expenses are paid by SAFEa. Furthermore, with other collaborators, AAFC and SAFEa have signed cooperative arrangements to establish two of the six China-Canada S&I Centres, one in oats development and one in agriculture management in arid climate.

During this visit, SAFEa also signed a MOU with ISTPCanada. ISTPCanada is a not-for-profit organization mandated by the Canadian government to promote global R&D cooperation that will enhance the commercialization of leading-edge technologies. Among the activities jointly organized by SAFEa, ISTPCanada and AAFC, those under the China Yangling Agricultural High-Tech Fair (CAF), provide high visibility to Canadian companies and universities that participates in the CAF, a yearly national event highly supported by the Central government. This year the CAF event will be held November 1-5, 2009.



Marc Fortin and Ji Yunshi

Contact: Yvon Martel

Research Branch Talking to the MISB Trade Commissioners

Nowadays, more and more markets are science driven. On March 24, 2009, in Ottawa, Research Branch met with the Trade Commissioners placed by the Market and Industry Services Branch (MISB) in priority markets around the world. The objective was to explore means for enhanced collaboration within the Growing Forward agenda. Yvon Martel, John Culley, Della Johnston, Dalia Kudirka and two Trade Commissioners, Peter Chang located in China and Andrew Lam located in India, shared their views and experience on the integration of science and trade for the success of Canadian innovation at the world scale. The consensus was that the economic value of innovation will be enhanced by the right combining of knowledge and trade information.



Canadian Trade Commissioners at the Delta Hotel in Ottawa, March 24, 2009

Contact: Johanne Boisvert



Report on the 2nd China-Canada Joint S&T Committee Meeting

In Beijing, the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology, hold the 2nd China-Canada Joint S&T Committee Meeting on March 23, 2009 under the Canada-China Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation, signed in 2005. Under the agreement, the agriculture sector coordinators, Mr. Jia Feng, deputy Director-general, China National Center for Biotechnology Development, MOST, and Dr. Johanne Boisvert, AAFC, reviewed the current status of the collaboration, and identified priorities and joint activities for the next year. Professor Li Shujun, vice-president, Chinese academy of Agricultural Mechanization Sciences, MOST, Mr. Wang Ya-Wu, Rural S&T department, MOST, Dr. Joe Zhou, AAFC, Mrs Stacy Chew, ISTPCanada and Mrs Grace Kim, AAFC in posted at the Beijing Canadian Embassy, also participated to the meeting. Four priority areas were selected for this year: biotechnology (more specifically molecular biology in oats, wheat and barley); food processing; development of biological energy and bio-based products ((e.g. biomass utilization); and dairy production (e.g. breeding, forage, milk quality). The first joint activity will be a roundtable with Chinese, Israel and Canadian representatives from government, universities and industries, on June 9, 2009, in Ottawa. The participants will discuss the implementation of a network, a joint call for proposals, and priorities. ISTPCanada, who manages a special funds to stimulate industry/academia lead S&I projects between China and Canada, CIIRDF (Canada-Israel funding), and AAFC will be hosting the roundtable.

The second activity, the 2009 China-Canada Agri-science and Innovation Forum, will take place 6-7 July, 2009 in Ottawa and will provide a unique opportunity to Canadian industry and university

to take advantage of the AAFC's Chinese collaborators to develop new markets in China. About 40 Chinese representatives from 11 science-based organisations will share their experience on joint cooperation in S&I with Canadian industries.

A workshop will likely take place this Fall in China during the China Agricultural High-Tech Fair of Yangling, 1-5 November 2009, as a follow-up of the two Ottawa activities. Target areas will be the dairy production and food processing. Canadian industries and universities will be able to join through the Going Global Innovation Program of DFAIT. For Canada, all those activities are targeting to provide high visibility to Canadian organizations, facilitate the development of S&I partnership and collaboration, at the Chinese regional, provincial and central government levels, and promote joint research projects that will lead to new market opportunities.



Joe Zhou, Ya-Wu Wang, Johanne Boisvert, Feng Jia, Grace Kim, Shujun Li, and Stacy Chew

Contact Person: Joe Zhou



Review of the scientific Cooperation with USDA-ARS

In 2008, a Memorandum of Understanding for science cooperation was signed between Dr. Marc Fortin, Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Dr. Ed Knipling, Administrator of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). On March 3, 2009, Mr. Ibrahim Shaqir, Office of International Research Programs, USDA-ARS, visited the International Scientific Cooperation Bureau to discuss the state of the scientific cooperation between the two organizations. Scientific cooperation is progressing well between scientists and research centres. Targeted actions between ARS and AAFC were identified for the next years. They include the participation to the OECD's Co-operative Research Programme, to Procinorte (a tripartite forum involving Canada, United States and Mexico), and to joint activities with South America countries such as Brazil and Chile, that will be of benefits to all participants.



Ibrahim Shaqir and Yvon Martel

Contact: Johanne Boisvert



Science can be an Initial Focus Enhancing Trade with India

Trade Commissioners, Andrew Lam and Sudha Kshatriya, who are respectively finishing and starting their AAFC posting in India, discussed with Research Branch of avenues to increase scientific cooperation with India following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) Minister of Agriculture and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of India on January 13, 2009. Areas of discussions for cooperation include pulses, canola oil, food processing, and animal genetics. With its existing science capacity and the new emphasis on innovation and clusters, AAFC can offer opportunities for exchange of expertise, training at the Ph.D. level and twinning projects of mutual benefit. AAFC will invite research managers and scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to discuss actions of mutual interest that could be undertaken.



Yvon Martel, Andrew Lam and Sudha Kshatriya

Contact: Johanne Boisvert



Hebrew University of Jerusalem is seeking further scientific cooperation with AAFC

On March 3, 2009, Dr Yvon Martel, Chief Scientist, International, welcomed Professor Eli Feinerman, Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Quality Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Mr. Rami Kleinmann, National Director of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Mrs Orit Kremer, First Secretary at the Embassy of Israel in Ottawa. Although there are seven (7) universities in Israel, only the Hebrew University has a faculty of agriculture. The faculty has 100 members and 2400 students. It is comprised of Institutes (ex: Robert H. Smith Institute of Plant sciences and genetics), Departments (ex: Entomology, Soil and Water Sciences) and two schools (e.g. School of nutritional sciences). There are several areas of mutual interest and the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem expressed an interest to seek funding to support exchanges of scientists and students.



Orit Kremer, Yvon Martel, Eli Feinerman, Rami Kleinmann and Johanne Boisvert

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